

Docket No. F-7139

Ser. No. 09/942,857

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-16 are now in this application. Claim 1 is rejected. Claims 2-4 are previously cancelled herein. New claims 5-16 are added.

Claims 5-16 are submitted as patentable, as they recite subject matter not believed to be disclosed by the references of record in the manner as claimed. Independent claim 5 is directed to a method which includes arranging and holding polarization-maintaining fiber cables with exposed fiber portions of different lengths extending forward different amounts, a feature not believed disclosed in any of the cited references. Independent claim 13 includes inserting polarization-maintaining fiber cables into an insertion hole of a holder tube to hold same with exposed fiber portions laterally disposed adjacent one another and respectively sealing the insertion holes of the holder tube and an inner space of a multi-fiber ferrule with a first thermoset resin and a second thermoset resin, a feature not believed disclosed in the art cited of record. The remaining independent claims derive patentability at least in part from the independent claims, as well as for the additional recitations thereof. Favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

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In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
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